NUMB. CIV.

The GUARDIAN.

Quæ è longinquo magis placent. Tacit.

Friday, July 10. 1713.

ON *Tuesday* last I published two Letters written by a Gentleman in his Travels. As they were applauded by my best Readers, I shall this Day Publish two more from the same Hand. The first of them contains a Matter of Fact which is very curious, and may deserve the Attention of those who are versed in our *British* Antiquities.

SIR, Blois, May 15. *N. S.*

'BEcause I am at present out of the Road of 'News, I shall send you a Story that was 'lately given me by a Gentleman of this Country, 'who is descended from one of the Persons concerned in the Relation, and very inquisitive to 'know if there be any of the Family now in *England*.

'I shall only premise to it, that this Story is preserved with great Care among the Writings of this 'Gentleman's Family, and that it has been given to 'two or three of our *English* Nobility, when they 'were in these Parts, who could not return any 'Satisfactory Answer to the Gentleman, whether 'there be any of that Family now remaining in 'Great Britain.

'In the Reign of King *John* there lived a Noble'man called *John de Sigonia*, Lord of that Place 'in *Tourraine*. His Brothers were *Philip* and *Briant*. '*Briant*, when very young, was made one of the '*French* King's Pages, and served him in that Qua'lity when he was taken Prisoner by the *English*. 'The King of *England* chanced to see the Youth, and 'being much pleased with his Person and Behavi'our, begg'd him of the King his Prisoner. It 'happened, some Years after this, that *John*, the 'other Brother, who, in the Course of the War, 'had raised himself to a considerable Post in the '*French* Army, was taken Prisoner by *Briant*, who 'at that time was an Officer in the King of *Eng'land*'s Guards. *Briant* knew nothing of his Bro'ther, and being naturally of an haughty Temper, 'treated him very insolently, and more like a Cri'minal than a Prisoner of War. This *John* resent'ed so highly, that he challenged him to a single 'Combat. The Challenge was accepted, and 'Time and Place assigned them by the King's Ap'pointment. Both appeared on the Day prefixed, 'and entered the Lists compleatly armed amidst a 'great Multitude of Spectators. Their first En'counters were very furious, and the Success e'qual on both Sides; till after some Toil and 'Bloodshed they were parted by the Seconds to 'fetch Breath and prepare themselves afresh for the 'Combat. *Briant*, in the mean time, had cast 'his Eye upon his Brother's Escutcheon, which 'he saw agreed in all Points with his own. I need 'not tell you after this with what Joy and Surprize 'the Story ends. King *Edward*, who knew all 'the Particulars of it, as a Mark of his Esteem, 'gave to each of them, by the King of *France*'s 'Consent, the following Coat of Arms, which I 'will send you in the original Language, not be'ing Herald enough to blazon it in *English*.

Le Roi d'Angleterre par permission du Roi de France, pour perpétuelle memoire de leurs grands faits d'armes & fidelite envers leurs Rois, leur donna par Ampliation à leurs Armes en une croix d'argent Cantonnée de quatre Coquilles d'or en Champ de Sable, qu'ils avoient auparavant, une endenteleuse faite en façons de Croix de gueulle inserée au dedans de la ditte croix d'argent & par le milieu d'icelle, qui est participation des deux Croix que portent les dits Rois en la Guerre.

'I am afraid, by this time, you begin to won'der that I should send you for News a Tale of 'three or four hundred Years old; and I dare be

'sworn